

File MK ULTRA

Ref 3/B

AC-AI-77-FO342

9 March 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Administration
VIA: Robert H. Wiltse, Special Assistant/DDA
FROM: Frank Laubinger, Victims Task Force

1. The potentially most controversial activity in the search for victims of CIA's drug research is about to begin. This memo is to make the activities planned a matter of record and to assure that you are aware of them. I plan to go to the West Coast and points between in order to attempt to identify victims of CIA's drug research activity. Many of the activities I am about to undertake are on the ill-defined fringe of CIA's charter. It is my opinion that the nature and spirit of the DCI's commitment to the Congress requires this investigation. The controversial aspect of this activity results from CIA having no authority to investigate Americans and to engage in domestic intelligence collection. The Attorney General, however, has in a letter dated 17 July 1978, ruled that CIA can and should undertake this activity within certain prescribed limitations.

2. Very briefly, I intend to travel to the West Coast and return along with a Drug Enforcement Administration Officer. The DEA officer has been assigned at our request to assist in our investigation; the DEA has no independent reason to investigate this matter at this time. In the course of this trip we intend to:

- A. Interview former CIA employees formerly associated with MKULTRA.
- B. Interview present and former DEA officers who visited the safehouses or who otherwise might be of assistance in deciphering the very cryptic papers left by White.
- C. Review and photograph George White's diary now located at the Foothill College in Los Altos Hills, California.
- D. Investigate leads we now have as a result of investigative efforts to date, as well as to follow up leads

obtained from the diary, to include:

- (1) Interviews of many people including Mrs. George White and other citizens.
- (2) Searches of public records available primarily in San Francisco and possibly elsewhere in California.
- (3) Possibly an effort to review hospital admission records if there is no alternative to establish an individuals's identity.
- (4) Travel within California as required by the leads developed. I will also use funds for courteous entertainment when I feel such use is in the best interest of the U.S. Government.

I will travel overtly as CIA, use CIA contact credentials when and if required, and will at no time use any type of cover for these activities. In order to assure that all CIA equities have been properly protected, my plans have been coordinated within the Agency with:

The Office of the General Counsel, the Director of Public Affairs, and the DDO's Domestic Contact Divison. The DCD officer in San Francisco has been advised of my anticipated arrival in San Francisco. DCD has also generously offered administrative support, if needed, while there.

Other offices made aware of my plans, although less formally, include: the IG Staff, OLC, and the Office of Security.

5. I am very much aware of limitations placed on the CIA investigations of individuals. I will not attempt to collect or to learn of biographic or personality data on individuals beyond that required to identify specific individuals as victims. Some alleged victims will only be identifiable through their employment or the activities in which they were engaged when they were drugged. In such instances some information on and about individuals will have to be obtained in order to establish identification. No effort will be made to contact victims and if victims are identified every effort will be made to protect their privacy consistent with establishing their identity. Notification is recognized as a separate activity.

6. The DEA has investigative authorities we do not have. Situations may develop which I feel go beyond CIA's charter but which are within the charter of DEA. In such instances I shall withdraw and allow, but not direct, the DEA officer to proceed as far as his authority allows.

7. In some instances, I will be requesting officers, especially former CIA and DEA officers, to give me information which is personally embarrassing to them and which they may deem to be against their interests. I will assure each officer that my assignment is to attempt to identify victims, not to put former officers in jeopardy. I will take few notes when talking to former officers who elect to furnish the needed information - and then only with their permission. And I am currently attempting to have such notes declared the official property of the U.S. Senate to shelter them from FOIA requests.

8. A liason relationship with the FBI has been developed on this subject. To assure adequate backstopping I have requested that their San Francisco office be informed of my presence in the area.


Frank Laubinger

c.c. DEA